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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Predominant Aggressor training @ Yavapai College: Oct 12th
- Getting Started CASA Training: Oct 13th
- CASA Advocate Academy, Prescott: Oct 19th & 20th
- Beyond the Basics CASA Training: Oct 27th



## *A Note from the President of CASA Children's Center, Inc. . . .*

Hi CASAs: I am happy to report that the CASA Children's Center, Inc. is now a qualified charitable organization under the Arizona Tax Credit. This means that donors get a dollar-for-dollar credit off their Arizona Tax bill up to \$800.00 for married couples filing a joint tax return and \$400 for taxpayers who are single, head of household, or married but filing separately. We also want to make you aware that your donation to a qualified charitable organization does not affect the tax credit you would get from donating to a school. You can do both because they are separate credits. We are excited about our new status and we hope that it will bring in funds for some of our new program ideas. These include providing suitcases for children so they do not have to move their things in green garbage bags, giving all families who are caring for a child in DCS custody a coupon for a holiday turkey, a Christmas giving tree, giving children special "boxes" that they can use to keep their personal possessions, and making "incentive" gifts for children who are meeting expected criteria in school. We have many other ideas in the works that we think will improve the lives of children in foster and kinship care, so I am hoping that the tax credit eligibility will give us that extra support we need.

Thanks for all that you do for the children of the Verde Valley Communities!

~Jackie Smoller, President of the Board

# COORDINATOR'S CORNER

## Hello to All Verde CASAs

The children's room at the Camp Verde Courthouse continues to be a success. Thanks again to the CASA Children's Center, Inc. for providing the items for the room. The Support Board continues to need your assistance in monitoring the children's room when you attend court. Please contact the Support Board to see how you can help out.

We still have \$20 Walmart gift cards which were provided by the Board to aid with back to school supplies and/or other needs for the children. Please don't hesitate to make a grant request or contact The CASA Children's Center, Inc. for anything you feel your child needs.



**October 20th** is the next **CASA Support meeting** at Darry's home in Verde Santa Fe, Cornville.

Thanks to all of you for your attendance and participation. Our support meetings in the community continue to be a big success.

Thank you to all of the CASAs that host our monthly meetings.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:** Dominant Aggressor Training is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12th at Yavapai College, Prescott campus. All CASA are encouraged to attend. Lunch is provided. Registration has closed but contact Charlotte at 928-771-3165 if you would like to attend and to find out if there have been any cancellations.

Thanks to all that attended our fall CASA Court Report training on September 16th at the Camp Verde Courthouse. We will have another Court Report training next spring. I will be providing updated information from Judge Young, the State, and the County CASA office.



The next **CASA Academy** for new CASAs is October 19th & 20th at the Juvenile Justice Center in Prescott, 8:30-5:00 each day. Current CASAs may also attend a partial day, one, or both days to receive updated training. Just inform your coordinator of your desire to attend. Mileage will be reimbursed.

**The CASAaz training has been delayed once again. We will notify you all when we finally schedule the training process. Thanks to many of you who responded. As for now, please continue to send in your CASA Logs and Court Reports in the current manner.**

**We need the CASA activity and Contact logs by the first of the month. And your court reports need to be submitted 2 weeks before your hearing date. Please contact your coordinator if you have any questions or concerns**

**As always, thank you for all you do.**



Mike Wade, CASA Coordinator (928) 554-8900  
[mwade@courts.az.gov](mailto:mwade@courts.az.gov)

**October 20 CASA Meeting**  
will be at the Cornville home of  
Darry **2-4 pm**

## Verde CASA Calendar~October 2016

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
3	4	5 VERDE COURT HEARINGS 1:30—5 PM	6	7
10 COLUMBUS DAY— Office Open	11	12	13 <b>GETTING STARTED-New Advocates</b>	14
17	18	19 <b>ACADEMY 8:30-5:00 JJC</b> VERDE COURT HEARINGS 1:30—5 PM .	20 <b>ACADEMY 8:30-5:00 JJC</b> <b>CASA PEER SUPPORT-2:00</b>	21
24	25	26	27 <b>BEYOND THE BASICS- New Advocates</b>	28
31				

# Happy Halloween!

Oct 5 & 19— Verde Court Hearings 1:30—5 pm

Oct 13—Getting Started class for new CASA advocates

Oct 19 & 20— CASA Academy, Prescott Juvenile Justice (JJJ)  
8:30am—5:00pm

Oct 20—CASA Support Meeting, 2 p.m. in Cornville

Oct 27—Beyond the Basics training for new CASA advocates



# Verde CASA Calendar~November 2016

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2 VERDE COURT HEARINGS 1:30—5 PM	3	4 <b>IEP Training @ JJC</b>
7	8	9	10 <b>CASA PEER SUPPORT— 2:00</b>	11 <i>office closed</i> 
14 <b>Kids at Hope at 10:00 @ JJC</b>	15	16 VERDE COURT HEARINGS 1:30—5 PM	17 GETTING STARTED-New Advocates	18
21	22	23	24 Office Closed 	25 Office Closed
28	29	30 ACADEMY 8:30-5 PM @ JJC  VERDE COURT HEARINGS 1:30—5 PM	Dec 1 ACADEMY 8:30-5 PM @ JJC	Dec 2

## NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE

Nov 2, 16, 30—Verde Court Hearings, 1:30-5 p.m.

Nov 4—IEP Training, JJC

Nov 16—Polygraph/Fingerprinting

Nov 16—Getting Started for new CASA Advocates

Nov 30 & Dec 1—CASA Academy, Prescott Juvenile Justice (JJJ),  
8:30-5 p.m.



# IMPROVING FOSTER CARE

It's often easier for those of us who volunteer with Arizona's Foster Care System to find the challenges and weaknesses of the system but, if we dig a little, we can find successful efforts at various levels of government to change the system for the benefit of the children it serves.

In 2014, the US Government passed the "preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act," the intention of which was to "assist foster parents in applying a reasonable and prudent parent standard in a manner that protects child safety, while also allowing children to experience normal and beneficial activities." For the foster child, this law eliminates the need for court orders to approve normal family/child activities such as extracurricular activities or out-of-state vacations with the foster family. It also eliminates the need to conduct criminal background checks of the parents of a child's friend before approving a "sleepover." For the first time since the bill passed, I noted an entry entitled "Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard" in one of the documents I read this week in preparation for my next Foster Care Review Board. That law allowed the child whose case we are reviewing to participate in extracurricular activities (primarily basketball and the Rocket Science club) without the inconvenience of obtaining a court order first. This makes the foster care experience just a *tad* more like a "real" family experience for the child.

Recently, California made substantial improvements to its Foster care system. Called *Continuum of Care Reforms (CCRs)*, the bill was prepared to "make sure that youth in foster care have their day-to-day physical, mental, and emotional needs met; have the greatest chance to grow up in permanent...homes; and have the opportunity to grow into self-sufficient, successful adults." (CA AB 403.) The reforms include: providing specific training for foster families, replacing long-term foster placements with more family-like settings; and transforming group homes into short-term, therapeutic homes to prepare children to live with foster families. In addition, efforts are being made in California to more accurately match the foster child to a foster family and to better train those foster parents, both of which will help prevent future placement changes. The CCRs also modify the rate structure for foster families and institute evaluations by youth and families of service providers.

And finally, in Arizona, several reporters for the Arizona Republic have been awarded a three-year Arizona Community Foundation grant to identify and explore problems that exist in Arizona's Foster Care system. The purpose of this grant is to "support in-depth investigative reporting about child welfare in Arizona" ([www.azfoundation.org](http://www.azfoundation.org)). More specific goals include: understanding why reports of child abuse are rising in Arizona (up 28% in the last three years), investigating the system itself, and finding solutions to the problems they find there.

So, as bleak as things may look at times, there have been some improvements in foster care in AZ and the US. And with some concerted effort, those of us involved with foster care can identify system weaknesses and bring them to the attention of legislators and journalists to effect important changes to reduce at least some of the stress experienced by children in care. -- Elizabeth Jacobs, FCRB Maricopa 19

# FREE TRAINING



**Tuesday,  
November 15, 2016  
5:00 pm to 7:30 pm**

**Mingus Union  
High School  
~ Library ~**

**1801 E. Fir Street  
Cottonwood, AZ**

**Community members, teachers, and youth serving organizations can experience a new way of viewing and interacting with each child you serve.**

**Kids at Hope inspires, empowers and transforms schools, organizations serving youth and entire communities to create an environment and culture where all children experience success, **NO EXCEPTIONS!****

**The purpose of this workshop is to provide and adopt a research and evidence based protocol and strategic, cultural framework based on three leading principles and practices:**

**We Believe** that all children are capable of success, **NO EXCEPTIONS**

- **We Connect** with all children in a meaningful, sustainable way
- **We Time Travel** with children by teaching them to mentally time travel to their future in four destinations

**Visit [KidsAtHope.org](http://KidsAtHope.org) for more information.**

**To register contact Brandi Bateman**  
**[bbateman@muhs.com](mailto:bbateman@muhs.com)    [\(928\) 478-7943](tel:(928)478-7943)**

*Stay Connected:*



[matforce.org](http://matforce.org)



## COMMUNITY EVENT



### 20th Annual Fall Artist Show – First Weekend

Join us for our Annual Fall Artist Show for our back to back weekend event! 11 of our talented artists will be joining us and debuting their newest artwork. We will also be celebrating Exposures International Gallery's 20th Year Anniversary!

## *Exposures International Gallery of Fine Art*

October 7, 8, 9:  
Barbara Westwood  
Bill Worrell  
John Maisano  
Yuroz

Frasca/Halliday

Friday 4-8pm* Saturday 2-7pm Sunday 12-3pm

**Friday Shows are Invitation RSVP Only*

**Address:** 561 State Route 179

**Phone:** 928-282-1125

## COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR THE KIDS

# Fall Festival

### at the Verde Valley Fairgrounds

We are having our 4th annual Fall Festival at the Verde Valley Fairgrounds. We are expecting over 50 Arts and Crafts booths on Friday October 28 and Saturday October 29 from 9 am to 4pm – we have a wide range of Artisans and Crafters. There is NO entrance fee to attend the event. In addition, on Saturday, we fill out the day with a Family Fun Rodeo with horse swap, mutton bustin', ribbon race, boot scramble, and much more (those without horses can participate).

Also on Saturday, Red Rock Posse will perform.

### *Verde Valley Fairgrounds*

**Address:** 800 E. Cherry St

**Phone:** 928-634-3290

[Website Link](#)

**Admission:** Free Admission

**Start Date:** 10/28/2016

**End Date:** 10/29/2016



### **Sedona's Annual Safe & Fun Trick or Treat**

Sedona's Annual Safe & Fun Trick or Treat in Uptown is held October 31st from 5 – 8 p.m. Merchants welcome ghouls and ghosts at storefronts for treats! Thriller and Zombie Swing performances by community dancers, with stilt walkers, puppets and surprises. Costume Contest with prizes in partnership with City Parks & Recreation. **Free event** coordinated by Sedona Main Street Program.

**Address:** N. State Route 89A

**Phone:** 928-204-2390

**Time:** 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM





# No Cost Opportunity!

## Phoenix Art Museum Tickets Announcement

**Arizonans for Children** has tickets to the Phoenix Art Museum to be given to foster families and group homes with foster children.

We can send 36 people per day for the next 4 months.

### Hours and General Admission

**Wednesday, 10am-9pm**

**Thursday-Saturday, 10am-5pm**

**Sunday, 12pm-5pm**

**First Friday Evenings, 6-10pm**

*Closed Mondays, Tuesdays  
and major holidays*

**Phoenix Art Museum**

**PHOENIX ART MUSEUM**

1625 N Central Ave - Phoenix, Az. 85004

Tel 602.257.2114 [www.phxart.org](http://www.phxart.org)

*If you and your foster children would like to attend:*

- 1) Please contact Kaye McCarthy, Arizonans for Children [kayemccar@cox.net](mailto:kayemccar@cox.net)
- 2) Provide three choices of dates you'd like to attend
- 3) Indicate how many total people [adults & children] that will be attending
- 4) Provide your full name: or name of person taking the children or name of your group home. The passes will be emailed back to you.

# ATTENTION VERDE CASAS



Your Verde CASA office now has 2017 Planners available for you - please come by and pick one up....time is flying—it will be 2017 before you know it!

## GIFT CARDS

The Verde CASA office continues to have gift cards that can be used for your CASA child(ren). These gift cards are supplied by the CASA Children's Center, Inc..

These cards can be used to celebrate an 'A' on a report card, a holiday or birthday ,or simply a way to put a smile on the face of your child. We also encourage you to utilize the CASA Children's Center, Inc. grant request for the needs of your child(ren). The Holidays are coming up!

Bikes, diapers, books, beds, classes, art supplies.....If you have an idea, it costs nothing to ask!



Lora M.

Ana V.

Robert M.

Patricia B.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## CASA Children's Center, Inc.

### Board Members:

**Jackie Smollar, President, 703/868-8169**

Email: Jackie.smollar@gmail.com

**Lori Winston, Vice President 520/470-9079**

Email: lori.winston@gmail.com

**Terry Schick, Treasurer 928/853-0653**

**Carol Lucas, Secretary 928/301-2121**

**Leslie Stevens,**

**Financial Assistance Mgr - 928/300-2537**

### Directors:

**Duane Wyles 928/634-4913**

**Theah Gavenn**

### Advisors:

**Elisa Richards 928/639-2611**

**Betty Hart 928/567-2946 or 928/963-0050**

**Stephanie Quiroz 928/649-6836**

**Mike Wade 928/254-0013**

## CASA of Yavapai County

Phone: 928-554-8900

Fax: 928-554-8901

### Camp Verde:

**Mike Wade, CASA Coordinator**

**(928) 554-8903**

Email: mwade@courts.az.gov

**Vacant, CASA Support Staff**

**(928) 554-8902**

### Prescott:

**Quinci Castleberry, Program Manager**

**(928) 777-7900**

Email: qcastleberry@courts.az.gov

**Cindy Miller, CASA Coordinator**

**(928) 777-7622**

Email: cmiller@courts.az.gov

**Pennie Wamboldt, CASA Coordinator**

**(928) 777-7901**

Email: pwamboldt@courts.az.gov

**Charlotte Winder, CASA Support Staff**

**(928) 771-3165**

Email: cwinder@courts.az.gov

**Amelia Hintze, CASA Support Staff**

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Email: ahintze@courts.az.gov

**Kristen Newman, Family Treatment Court**

**Coordinator (928) 771-3398**

**CASA Children's Center, Inc.  
Serving our Court Protected Children  
and the CASA Program  
Court Appointed  
Special Advocates**



**CASA OF YAVAPAI COUNTY**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB**

**WWW.CASAOFYAVAPAI.COUNTY.ORG**

***Unless someone like you cares  
an awful lot, it's not going to  
get better, it's not.***

***~Dr. Suess***